

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 03589 092002Z
ACTION EUR-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 191

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3589

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY ELECTORAL-LIST INFORMATION SHOWS CONCENTRATION
ON MAJOR FIGURES IN MADRID, PERSISTENT WELTER OF MINI-PARTIES

REF: MADRID 3538

1. THE FORMIDABLE TASK OF DRAWING UP CANDIDATE LISTS CONTINUED
DOWN TO THE MIDNIGHT MAY 8 DEADLINE, AT LEAST IN MADRID, AND
IF THE OVERALL MADRID LIST (THE ONLY ONE PUBLISHED HERE SO
FAR) IS ANY INDICATION, THE SPANISH VOTER WILL HAVE HIS
WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM ON ELECTION DAY, WITH 26 SEPARATE BUT
IN SOME CASES OVERLAPPING SLATES IN THIS PROVINCE ALONE.
(INCLUDED IN THE 26 ARE PARTIES BOTH TO THE RIGHT OF
FRAGA'S ALIANZA POPULAR AND TO THE LEFT OF THE PCE.)
REPORTEDLY, THERE ARE SOME 6,000 CANDIDATES NATION-WIDE
FOR THE 557 ELECTORAL CORTES SEATS. THE NEXT 48 HOURS
CAN BE USED FOR DENUNCIATION OF IRREGULARITIES IN THE
PUBLISHED LISTS, AND ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES WILL THEN HAVE
A WEEK (I.E. UNTIL MAY 18) TO SCRUTINIZE THE LISTS AND
PROCLAIM THE FINAL VERSION.

2. ONE CLARIFYING ELEMENT WAS THE CONSENSUS THAT DEVELOPED
THAT MAJOR PARTY LEADERS WOULD RUN IN MADRID, OVERCOMING
THE EARLIER TENDENCY OF MANY TO SEEK THE RELATIVE SAFETY OF
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PAGE 02 MADRID 03589 092002Z

THEIR REMOTE NATIVE PROVINCES. INDEED, A PLACE AT THE TOP
IN AN OUTLYING PROVINCE BECAME A MEANS OF MOLLIFYING THOSE
WHOSE ELECTORAL PRETENSIONS CONFLICTED WITH THE CALCULATIONS
OF THEIR COLLEAGUES, OR MORE GENERALLY OF RESOLVING DISPUTES
OVER POSITIONS ON A MADRID LIST.

3. THUS, PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ, FRAGA, CARRILLO, RUIZ-GIMENEZ,

TIERNO GALVAN, AND FELIPE GONZALEZ WILL ALL RUN IN MADRID AT THE HEAD OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PARTY LISTS, PROVIDING A MANO-A-MANO TOUCH TO THE RACE HERE WHICH WILL GIVE THE RESULTS CONSIDERABLE SYMBOLIC VALUE. PERHAPS WITH THIS IN MIND, EACH OF THE LEADERS MENTIONED IS ACCOMPANIED BY AT LEAST ONE OTHER "NAME" NEAR THE TOP OF THE LIST, PRESUMABLY TO BOOST THE MADRID VOTE EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF DEPRIVING ANOTHER PROVINCE OF THE PRESUMED VOTE-PULLING POWER OF THAT "NAME." (THE SUAREZ-LED UCD LIST ALSO REFLECTS THE COALITION'S DIVERSE MAKE-UP, WITH HIGH POSITIONS DISTRIBUTED TO VARIOUS PARTY CHIEFS. ALL LISTS SHOW A SHARP DECREASE IN THE RECOGNIZABILITY OF THE NAMES AROUND THE FOURTH TO THE SEVENTH POSITION.)

4. THE MAJOR MADRID LISTS AND THEIR MAJOR NAMES:

--UCD: SUAREZ, CALVO-SOTELO (EX-PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER AND SUAREZ' ELECTORAL HONCHO), JUAN MANUEL FANJUL (A SEMI-RETIRED FORMER CORTES MEMBER AND AN OBVIOUS GOVT INSERT), SOCIAL-DEMOCRAT LEADER FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, LIBERAL-DEMOCRAT LEADER GARRIGUES, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT INIGO CAVERO, AND LIBERAL (PDP) LEADER CAMUNAS.

--AP; FRAGA, FORMER INDUSTRY AND FOREIGN MINISTER LOPEZ BRAVO, POLITICAL COMMENTATOR RUIZ GALLARDON.

--FDC: RUIZ-GIMENEZ, GIL ROBLES, JR., JAIME CORTEZO.

--PSOE: GONZALEZ, ENRIQUE BARON.

--PCE: CARRILLO, LABOR LEADER MARCELINO. CAMACHO, SIMON SANCHEZ MONTERO, RAMON TAMAMES.

--PSP; TIERNO, RAUL MORODO (THE PSP IS A MAJOR PARTY ONLY IN MADRID, WHERE TIERNO'S ESTABLISHED REPUTATION, PARTICU-
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PAGE 03 MADRID 03589 092002Z

LARLY IN UNIVERSITY CIRCLES, WILL DRAW VOTES, LARGELY AT PSOE EXPENSE.)

5. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE LISTS WAS INEVITABLE CONFLICT-RIDDEN, PARTICULARLY IN THE UCD, WHERE THE LAST-MINUTE OVERLAY OF SUAREZ AND COMPALY, WITH CALVO-SOTELO ACTING AS PRIME AGENT, LED TO SHARP DISPUTES AND SOME DISPLACEMENTS. LIBERAL LEADER ENRIQUE LARROQUE DENOUNCED GOVT INTERVENTION AND WITHDREW, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (PDC) ALVEREZ MIRANDA WILL RUN FROM PALENCIA (WHICH APPEARS TO CONFIRM LONG-CIRCULATING RUMORS THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WERE GETTING SHORT SHRIFT IN THE CENTER'S LISTS), FSD HEAD LASUEN WILL RUN IN TERUEL, AND THE PARTIDO POPULAR, WHICH FATHERED THE CENTRIST COALITION IN THE FIRST PLACE, HAS SEEN ITS TWO ORIGINAL CHIEFS, AREILZA AND CABANILLAS, BOTH SUBSTANTIALLY REMOVED: AREILZA PUT THE LIE TO LAST-MINUTE RUMORS HE WOULD RUN AS AN INDEPENDENT AND STOOD BY HIS EARLIER SURPRISE DECLARATION HE WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE AT ALL, WHILE CABANILLAS WILL RUN FROM ORENSE PROVINCE. THE AFTERNOON

DIARIO 16, LEFT-LEANING BUT PREVIOUSLY OFTEN SYMPATHETIC
TO SUAREZ, ON MAY 9 BLASTED THE "BLUE" GINT GIVEN
THE UCD LIST BY THE LAST-MINUTE INJECTION OF NAMES, PARTICULARLY
IN THE PROVINCES, ALLEGEDLY LINKED TO INTERIOR MINISTER
MARTIN VILLA AND THE OLD OFFICIAL STUDENT UNION. STABLER

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